

Submitter: Lisabeth Brun  
On Behalf Of: Nohokai Pacheco  
Committee: Senate Committee On Health Care  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB293

Dear Senate Committee on Health Care,

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 293 and pleading with you to support this bill as adults in custody are at grave risk if the current Department of Corrections policies and procedures are kept in place. I can speak to the real dangers and lack of critically necessary medications, procedures and treatments have on individuals in custody and their families and others that support them (if they are lucky enough to have them). Our son, Nohokai Pacheco, entered the the system six years ago and at the time had well known and clearly documented Epilepsy. Opiate Dependent Disorder, a dislocated shoulder, migraines, etc. When he came into the system they flatly refused to give him his Keppra (a medication that he had been stable of since he was 16 years old) which led to multiple Grand Mal Seizures and head injuries (as well as significant cognitive delays due to the seizures and frankly being incarcerated is not a place you want to be disoriented in). Our son connected with us to let us know when all the attempts he made failed and he was getting sicker and sicker. We offered to bring his prescription, pay for it, we talked to at least ten people and begged for it to no reprieve. We were treated as overbearing parents as we watched our son regress and endure many more head injuries, and grand mal seizures because no one seemed a big concerned and we were told repeatedly what there procedures were in a flat, pat like response. He had been seeing a Orthopedic Surgeon prior to him entering the system (Dr. Yao) and needed surgery for his shoulder desperately. SIX YEARS later it had not been done and in took years to see an orthopedic doctor and the doctor said at the time he was to get injections and that had been a battle. They have flatly refused to give them to him so many of the times and our son had been left in excruciating pain. Imagine your shoulder being ripped out of place in a seizure so bad that that's how it happened and first not receiving the medications to stop the seizures and then not the treatment or the surgery to repair a ripped out shoulder. This is not okay. We are talking g about VERY basic care. Our son has repeatedly (as well as us asked for this care and also the Mat program. I have a stack of emails and calls and have been told he will get into the Mat program which is a treatment program he should have been enrolled into from the beginning. SIX years later he is still not enrolled in this program. Three institutions have told him within a month he would be enrolled but he's been transferred and transferred and still had not received the treatment. He's been put in segregation for literally YEARS at a time. And it has had horrible effects on him physically and mentally. He was "treated" for Hepatitis and received little to no care during the six month period that he suffered with severe pain. No extra fluids or checks were given. Other inmates talked about receiving extra fluids (ensure and sports drinks to help) and blood checks to know if the

treatment was working and he was shocked that he hadn't received anything and when he brought up the pain he was treated like he was med seeking. His father is a critical care nurse at Salem Hospital and I am a former Compliance Officer so it has been very difficult for us to watch our son go through this and much much more medically and physically and for us to believe that if the system was followed he would be treated (not punished further) in a humane and necessary way. He to this day had not received the critical care needed and we will do absolutely everything we can to support him and others. If you would like to meet with me or Nohokai we would be happy to assist in any way we can. These are people- it could be your son., brother, uncle, dad, grandfather. Please have some compassion as real change is absolutely necessary at this point. Thank you for your time with this.

Respectfully. Lisabeth Brun